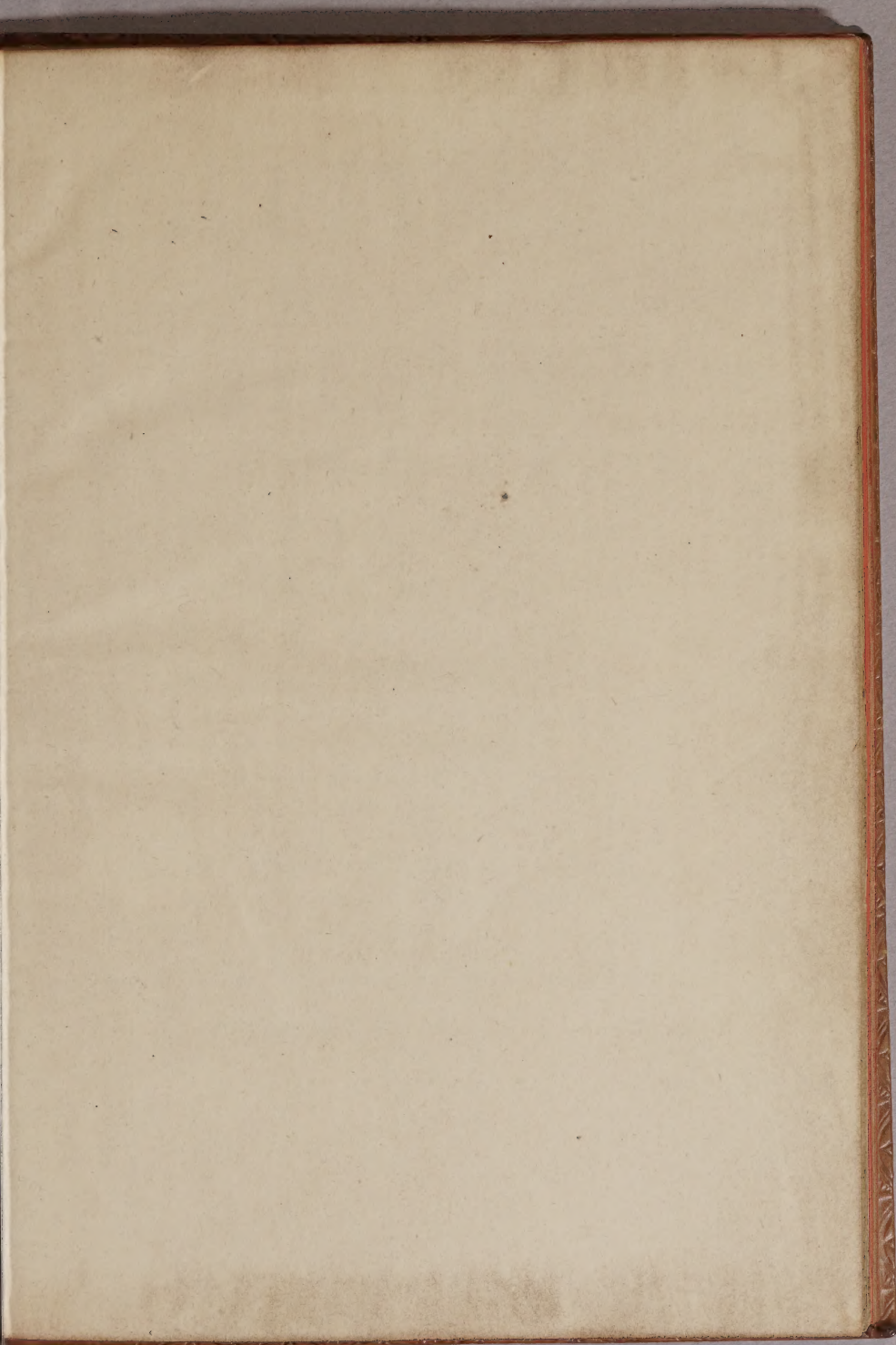
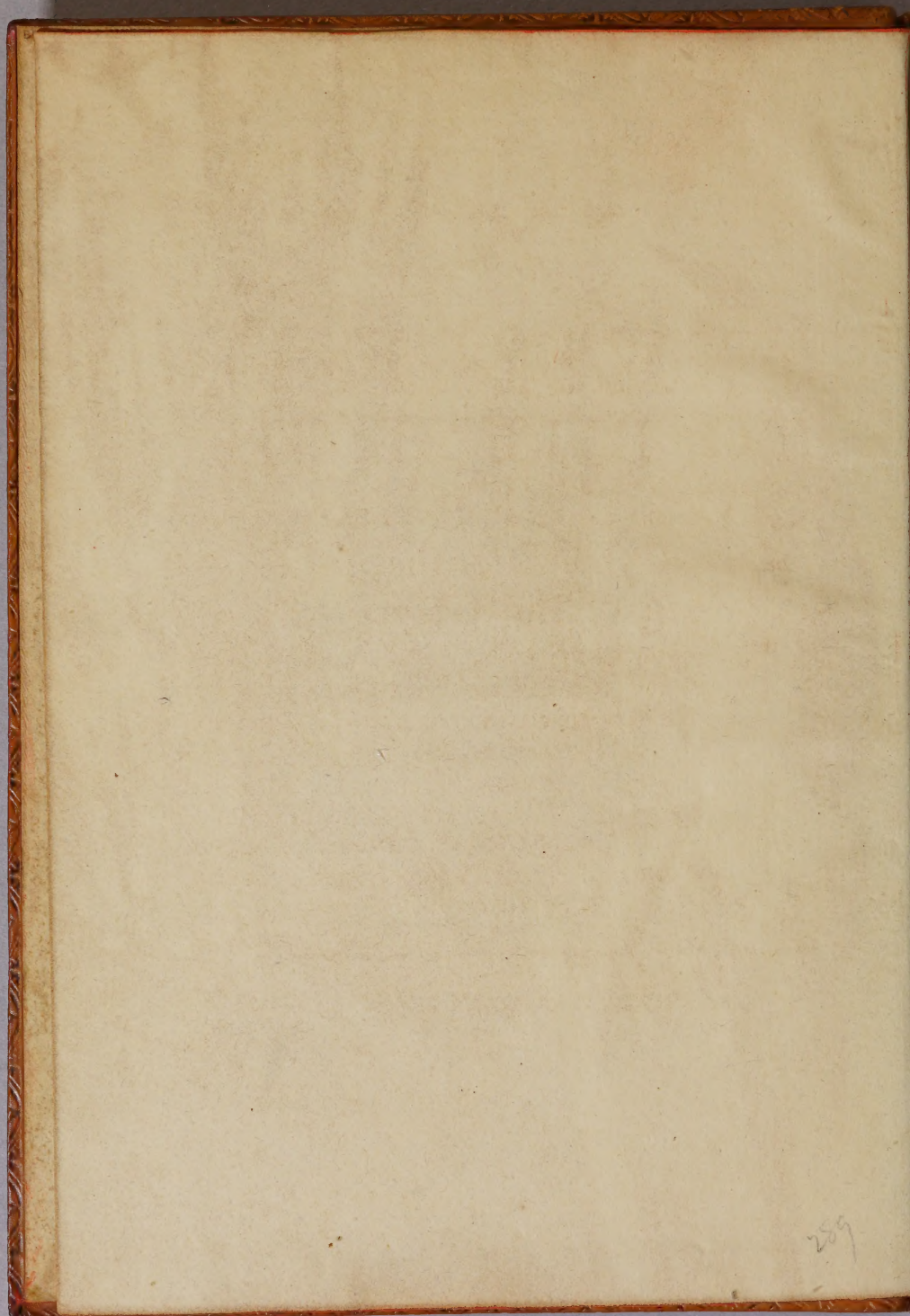




John Carter Brown.





A
PETITION

OF *W^m Cartell*

EXHIBITED
TO THE HIGH

COVRT OF PARLIAMENT

now assembled, for the propa-

gating of the Gospel in

America, and the West Indies; and

for the settling of our Plantations

there, which Petition is appro-

ved by 70 able English

Divines.

Also by Master *Alexander Henderson,*

and some other worthy Ministers

of Scotland.

Printed in the yeare, 1641.

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Alloyed Master Alexander Henderson,

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Printed in the year, 1697.





TO THE
 MOST HIGH
 AND
 HONOURABLE
 Court of PARLIAMENT
 now assembled.

The humble PETITION of William
 Castell, Parson of Courtenhall in Northampton-
 shire, for the propagating of the
 Gospel in *America*.

IN all humble manner sheweth un-
 to your approved wisedomes, the
 great and generall neglect of this
 Kingdome, in not propagating
 the glorious Gospel in *America*, a
 maine part of the world: Indeed the underta-
 king of the worke is (in the generall) acknow-
 A 3 ledged.

ledged pious and charitable; but the small prosecution that hath hitherto beene made of it, either by us, or others, having as yet) never beene generally undertaken in pittie to mens soules, but in hope to possesse the land of those Infidels, or of gaine by Commerce, may well make this and all other Christian Kingdomes confesse, they have beene exceeding remisse in performing this so religious, so great, so necessary a worke.

May it therefore please your wisdomes to give your *Petitioner* leave to propose briefly, (as the nature of a Petition requireth) the more then ordinary piety, and charity of the worke; the evident necessity, and benefit of undertaking, together with the easinesse of effecting.

A greater expression of piety (your *Petitioner* conceiveth) there cannot be, then to make God known where he was never spoken nor thought of, to advance the Scepter of Christs Kingdom. And now againe to reduce those, who (at first) were created after the Image of God from the manifest worship of devils; To acknowledge and adore the blessed Trinitie in Vnity, to doe this, is to be happy Instruments of effecting those often repeated promises of God, in making all nations blessed by the coming of Christ, and by sending his word to all lands: It is to inlarge greatly the pale of the Church.
And

And to make those (who were the most detestable Synagogues of Sathan) delightfull Temples of the Holy Ghost.

It was a high point of piety in the Queen of the South, to come from the utmost parts of the world to heare the wisdom of *Salomon*. And so it was in *Abraham*, to leave his native country for the better, and more free service of his God.

And certainly it will bee esteemed no lesse in those, who (either in their persons or purses) shall religiously endeavour to make millions of those silly seduced *Americans*, to heare, understand and practise the myserie of godlinesse.

And as is the piety, such is the charity of the worke, exceeding great, to no lesse then the immortal soules of innumerable men, who still sit in darkenesse, and in the shadow of death, continually assaulted and devoured by the Dragon, whose greatest delight is to bring others with himselfe into the same irrecoverable gulfe of perdition, what those blind and spirituall distressed *Americans* are, we were, and so had continued had not Apostolicall men afforded greater charity unto us, *Divisis orbe Britannis*, by long Journeying, and not without great hazard of their lives, then (as yet) hath beene shewed by us unto them.

Wee are not indeed indued with such eminent

eminent extraordinary gifts, as were the Primitive Christians ; but yet (if it be duly considered) how fully and how purely God hath imparted his Gospel unto this Iland, how miraculously, hee hath larely protected us from Spanish Invasions, and Popish conspiracies; and how (at this time) wee abound in shipping, and all manner of provision for Sea : It will bee found, that we (of all nations) are most for the worke, and most ingaged to doe it in due thankfulness to God.

Nor is the Arme of the Lord shortned, or his wonted bounty so restrained, but that undertaking the voyage principally for Gods glory, and in compassion to mens soules, we may expect a more then an ordinary blessing from him, whose usuall custome is to honour those that honour him, and most abundantly even in this life, to recompence such religious undertakings.

The Spaniard boasteth much of what hee hath already done in this kind, but their owne Authors report their unchristian behaviour, especially their monstrous cruelties to be such, as they caused the Infidels to detest the name of Christ. Your wisedomes may judge of the Lyon by his claw. In one of their Ilands called *Hispaniola* of 200000 of men, as *Benzo* (in his Italian Historie) affirmeth, they had not left

left 150 foules. And *Lipsius* justly complayneth, that wheresoever they came, they cut downe men as they did come without any compassion. And as for those that survived, they bought their lives at deare rates: for they put them to beare, their carriages from place to place, and if they fayled by the way, they either miserably dismembred, or killed them out-right. They lodged them like brute beasts under the planks of their ships, till their flesh rotted from their backs: And if any failed in the full performance of his daily taske, hee was sure to bee whipped till his body distilled with goar blood, and then poured they in either molten pitch or scalding oyle to supple him.

A very strange, and unlikely way to worke Infidels unto the faith, neither yet could they (if they would) impart unto others the Gospel in the truth and purity thereof, who have it not themselves, but very corruptly, accompanied with many idle, absurd, idolatrous Inventions of their owne, which are but as so many superstructures wickedly oppressing, if not utterly subverting the very foundations of Christianity.

And although some of the reformed religion, *English, Scotch, French, and Dutch*, have already taken up their habitations in those parts, yet hath their going thither (as yet) beene to small purpose

purpose, for the converting of those nations, either for that they have placed themselves but in the skirts of *America*, where there are but few natives (as those of new *England*, or else for want of able and conscionable Ministers (as in *Virginia*) they themselves are become exceeding rude, more likely to turne Heathen, then to turne others to the Christian faith.

Besides, there is a little or no hope our Plantations there should be of any long continuance, since here in *England* for some yeares last past, they have beene rather diversly hindred, then any wayes furthered, how, and by whom, your wisedomes, either have or will shortly find out, but this is evident, that the proud superstitious Spaniard (who hateth their religion, and feareth their neighbours, will spare them no longer then (to his over-swelling greatnesse) shall seem good: And in the judgement of most judicious Travellers that way, they may (if they will) easily enough suppress and destroy all other our Plantations, as they did of late, that of Saint *Christophers*, when they were no way provoked by us, as they will now pretend they are, by a latter taking of *Trinidado*, and the losse of more then 150. of their men there. At least they will bee sure to be desperately assaulted, as was the Ile of *Providence*, but the yeare last past.

Whence

Whence your Petitioner offereth unto your Honourable considerations a third Argument (drawne from meere necessity) that as you tender the happy proceeding of those (as yet) but weakely settled Plantations: the liberties, livelihood, and lives of many thousands our deare brethren, and countrey men: And which is yet, more the prosperous progress of the gospel, you would be pleased to consult of such an able and speedy supply, as may secure them against the now expected cruelty of the Spaniard.

To which needfull supply the better and sooner to induce your wisedomes, your Petitioner desireth your yet a little further patience, untill hee hath shewed some temporall benefits that are thereby like to acrew unto this Kingdom, together with the easinesse of effecting.

When a Kingdom beginneth to be over-burthened with a multitude of people (as *England* and *Scotland* now do) to have a convenient place where to send forth Colonies is no smal benefit: And such are the North-east and North-west parts of *America*, betweene the degrees of 25. and 45. of the North latitude, which, at this time doe even offer themselves unto us, to bee protected by us, against the knowne cruelty of the over-neare approaching Spaniard.

A very large tract of ground containing spacious,

cious, healthfull, pleasant, and fruitfull countries, not only apt, but already provided of all things necessary for mans sustentation, Corne, Grasse, and wholesome cattell in good competence; but Fish, Fowle, Fruits and Herbes in abundant variety.

If wee should looke no further, then the South of *Virginia*, which is our owne) wee shall find there all manner of provision for life; besides Merchantable Commodities, Silke, Vines, Cotton, Tobacco, Deer-skins, Goat-skins, rich Furre, and Beavers good store, Timber, Brasse, Iron, Pitch, Tarre, Rosin; and almost all things necessary for shipping, which if they shall bee employed that way; they who are sent away may (with Gods blessing) within short time in due recompence of their setting forth, returne this Kingdome store of silver and gold, pearles and precious stones; for undoubtedly if there be not a generall mistake in all Authors, who have written of these places) such treasure is to bee had, if not there, yet in places not farre remote, where (as yet, the Spaniard hath nothing to doe. And in case the Spaniard will bee troublesome to our Plantations, or shall (as it is generally conceived) bee found an Enemy to this Kingdome, there is no way more likely to secure *England*, then by haying a strong Navie there; hereby wee may

may come to share, if not utterly to defeat him of that vaste Indian Treasure, wherewith hee setteth on fire so great a part of the Christian World, corrupteth many Counsellors of state, supporteth the Papacie, and generally perplexeth all reformed Churches.

Nor need any scrupulous quere bee made, whether wee may not assault an enemy in any place, or not esteeme them such as shall assault us in those places, where wee have as much to doe as they. The Spaniard claimeth indeed an Interest, little lesse then hereditarie in almost all *America*, and the *West Indies*, but it is but by vertue of the Popes grant, which is nothing worth, as was long since determined by *Queene Elizabeth*, and her Councell, so as for the Spaniard to debarre us in the liberty of our Plantations, or freedome of commerce in those spacious countries, were over proudly to take upon him, and for us to permit it were over-much to yeeld of our own right.

Especially, when we may, as now we may, so easily helpe our selves: For your Petitioner conceiveth there is no great difficulty in the preparation here, or tediousnesse in the passage thither, or hazard when wee come there. The preparation of men and shipping, in respect of the daily happy expected accord betweene us
and

and the *Scots*, is (upon the matter) already made, and as for money it is in the power of this Honourable House to give sufficient, without any grievance, or dislike of the Commonwealth, who (undoubtedly) in the generall will thinke nothing grievous, which shall bee concluded by your wisedomes, expedient to such a pious and charitable worke.

And as for the passage, how can it be thought either tedious or dangerous. it being ordinarily but six weekes sayle, in a sea much more secure from Pirats, and much more free from shipwrack, and enemies coasts, then ourten or twelve moneths voyage into the *East-Indies*. And as for our good successe there, wee need not feare it. The natives being now every where more then ever, out of an inveterate hatred to the Spaniard, ready and glad to entertaine us. Our best friends the Netherlanders being with eight and twenty ships gone before to assist and further us. And which is much more, our going with a generall consent in Gods cause, for the promoting of the Gospel, and inlarging of his Church, may assure us of a more then ordinary protection and direction. That hitherto wee have beene lesse successfull in our voyage that way, wee may justly impute it to this, that as yet they have not beene undertaken with such a generall consent,

sent, and with such a full reference to Gods
glory as was requisite.

And so your Petitioner having delivered his
apprehension herein more briefly, then so
weighty a matter might well require, hee
submits all the premises to your more full de-
liberation and conclusion, which hee humbly
prayeth, may hee with all convenient speed;
the onely best way under God to make
it the better successfull.

Wcc

WEe whose names are here under-written, having beene upon occasion acquainted with a motion intended to bee made by Master *William Castell*, Parson of *Courtenhall* in the county of *Northampton*, to the High and honourable Court of Parliament now assembled, concerning the propagation of the glorious Gospel of Christ in *America*. As wee doe well approve of the motion; so we doe humbly desire his reasons may bee duly considered: And so good a worke furthered their wiser judgements may resolve upon, to which we humbly submit the same.

<i>John Moseley.</i>	D.D	Ministers of LONDON.
<i>Ra. Brownricke.</i>	D.D	
<i>Thomas Bambrig.</i>	D.D	<i>George Walker.</i>
<i>Robert Sander son.</i>	D.D	<i>James Palmer.</i>
<i>Richard Alleyne.</i>	D.D	<i>Edward Marbury.</i>
<i>Daniel Featly.</i>	D.D	<i>Ioseph Caryll.</i>
<i>Mathias Styles.</i>	D.D	<i>Edmond Calamy.</i>
<i>Edmond Stanton.</i>	D.D	<i>Adoniram Byfield.</i>
<i>Stephen Denison.</i>	D.D	<i>William Price.</i>
<i>Edw. Williamot.</i>	D.D	<i>Richard Maden.</i>
<i>Ionathan Brown.</i>	D.D	<i>James Batty.</i>
<i>Iasper Fisher.</i>	D.D	<i>Math. Griffeth.</i>
<i>Hanniball Potter.</i>	D.D	<i>Ephraim Paget.</i>
<i>Anthony Clapton.</i>	D.D	<i>Robert Pory.</i>
<i>Thomas Drayton.</i>	D.D	<i>William Ianeway.</i>
<i>John Grant.</i>	D.D	<i>Nathaniell Barry.</i>

Ministers of several o- ther Countries.

<i>John White.</i>	<i>Dorsetshire.</i>
<i>William Ford.</i>	<i>Sommerfetshire.</i>
<i>John Pyns.</i>	
<i>Zachery Caudry.</i>	<i>Leſterſhire.</i>
<i>Henry Paynter.</i>	<i>Devonſhire.</i>
<i>Steven Marshall.</i>	<i>Effex.</i>
<i>Samuel Ioyner.</i>	
<i>John Ward.</i>	<i>Suffolke.</i>
<i>Ier: Burroughes</i>	<i>Northfolke.</i>
<i>John Rawlinſon.</i>	<i>Darby.</i>
<i>Moses Capell.</i>	
<i>William Rheb.</i>	<i>Kent.</i>
<i>Francis Charliot</i>	<i>Buck.</i>
<i>Richard Gifford.</i>	
<i>William Englesby.</i>	<i>Herford.</i>

Other worthy Miniſters of the Dio- ceſſe of Peterborough, where the Petition lieth.

<i>Daniel Caudery.</i>	<i>Samuel Moyle.</i>
<i>Jeremy Whittaker.</i>	<i>Daniel Rogers.</i>
<i>John Barry.</i>	<i>Benjamin Tomkins.</i>
<i>James Cranford</i>	<i>Richard Cooke.</i>
<i>Samuel Craddock</i>	<i>Richard Trueman.</i>
<i>David Enſme.</i>	<i>John Gudericke</i>
<i>Edward Caſtell.</i>	<i>William Spencer.</i>
	<i>C</i>
	<i>Ed-</i>

Edmond James
John Baynard.
George Iay.
Frances Presse.
John Gauderick
Miles Berket

Francis Atterbury
Jeremy Stevens.
John Ward.
Peter Fautrict.
William Malkinson.

The motion made by *Master William Castel*
 Minister of the Gospel for propagating of the
 blessed Euangel of Christ our Lord and Sa-
 viour in *America*, wee conceive in the general
 to bee most pious, Christian and charitable.
 And therefore to bee seriously considered,
 of all that love the Glorious Name of
 Christ, and are zealous of the salvation of
 Soules, which are without Christ, & without
 God in the world, wishing the opportunity &
 fit season; the instruments and meanes. And
 all things necessary for the prosecution of so
 pious a worke, to be considered by the wise-
 dome of Churches, in Ciuill Powers, whom
 God hath called, and enabled with Piety, pru-
 dence, and Peace, for matters of publike con-
 concernment, And of so great importance.

And

And beseeching the Lord to blesse all their consultations, & proceedings, for the advancing and establishing the Kingdome of Jesus Christ;

Alexander Henderson,

Robert Blare.

R. Ballic

M. Gillaspie.

N. Smith,

M. Borthrick.

FINIS.

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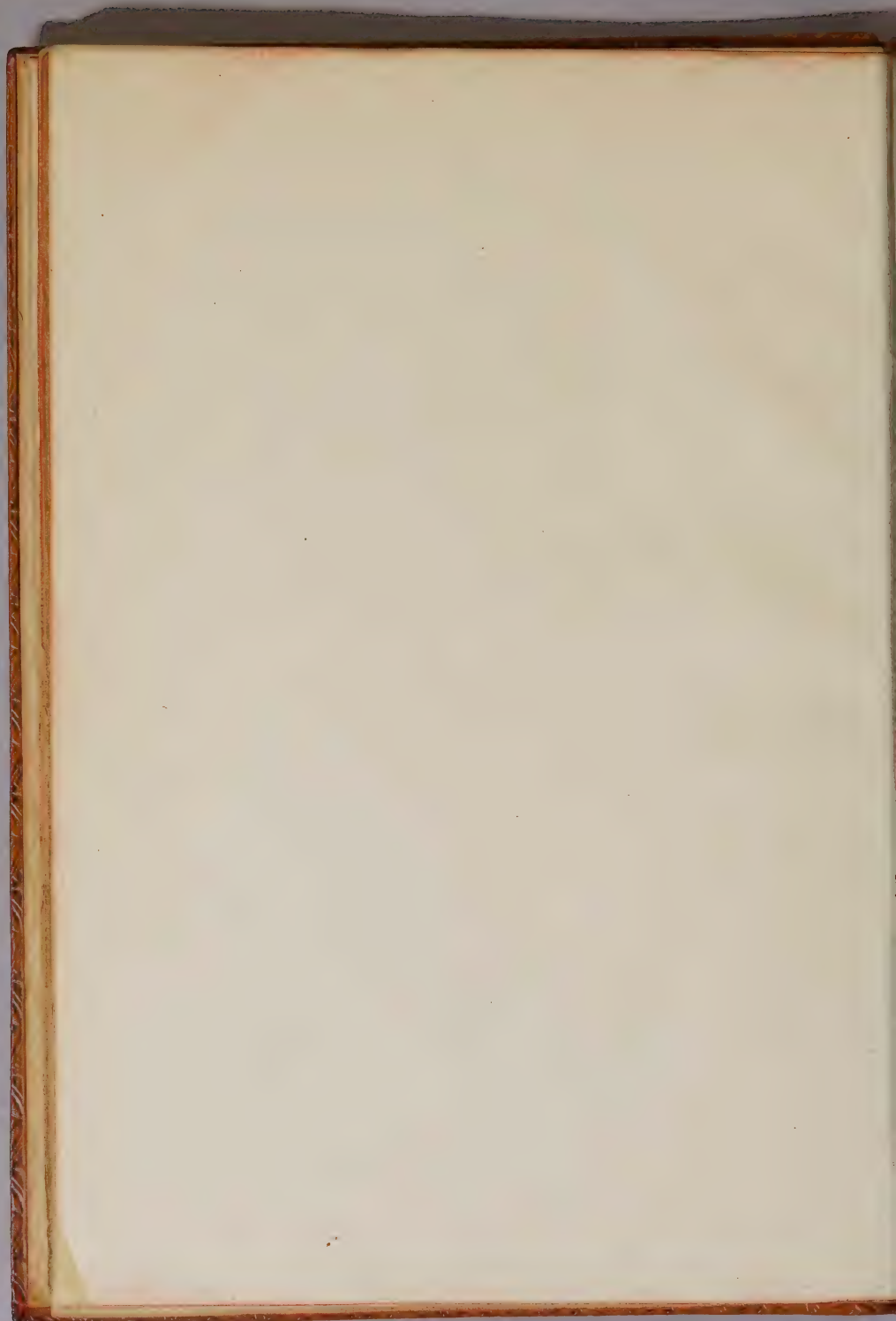
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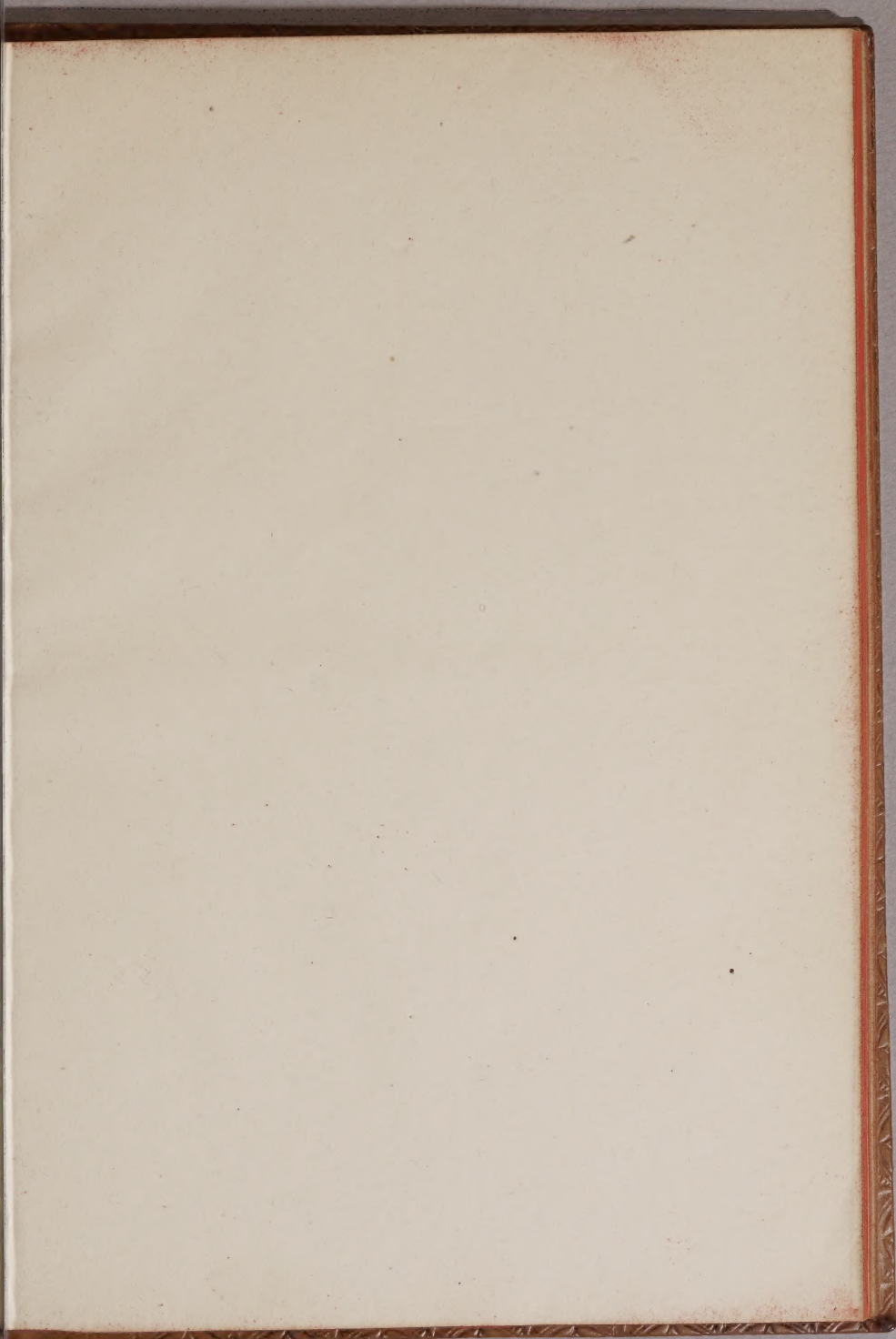
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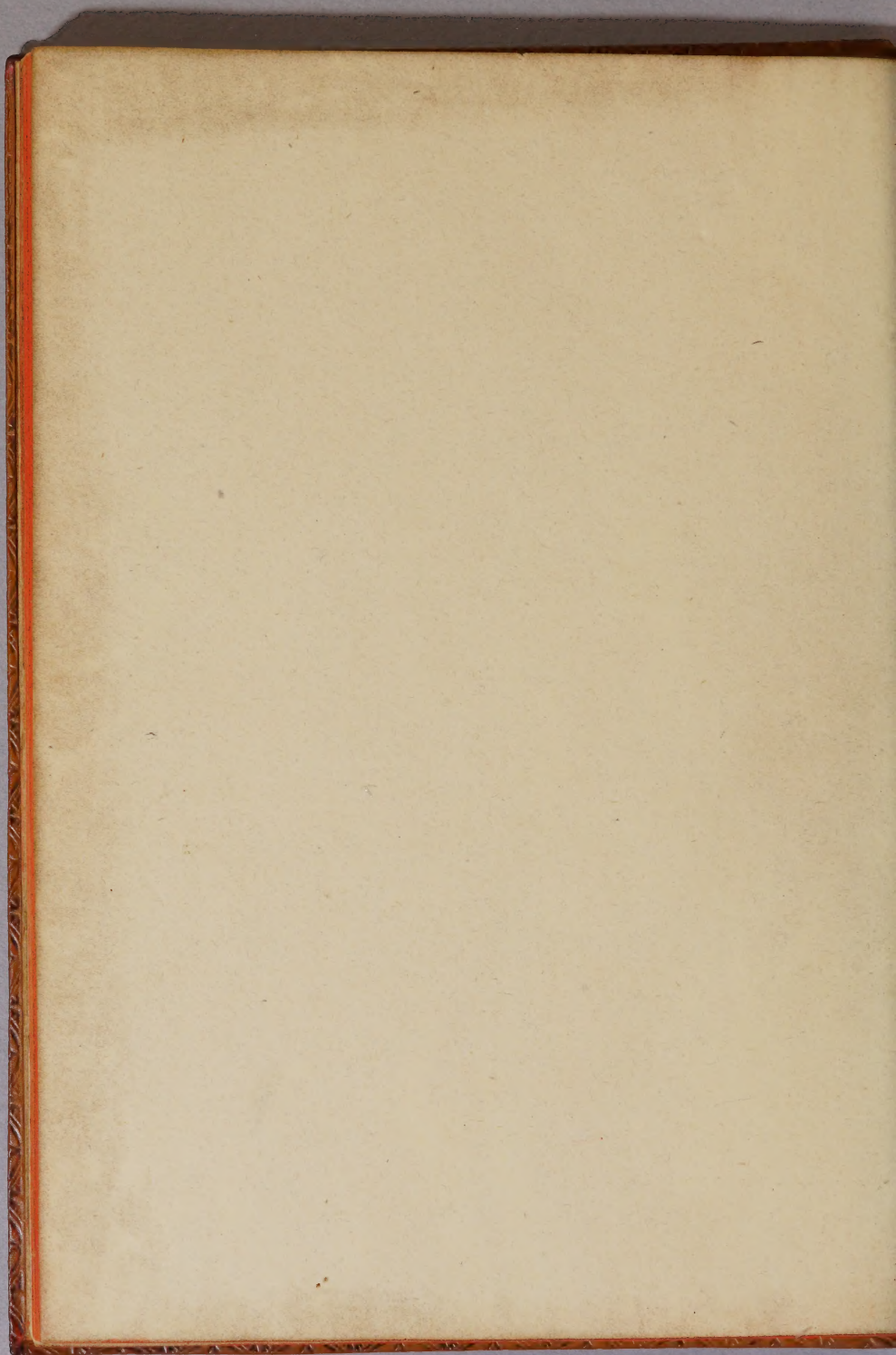
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